This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) [[[A]]] in combination:

a valve override system ~~for opening;~~ and

a ~~closed~~ gate valve assembly[[[,]]] comprising a casing having openings for connection to an inlet conduit and an outlet conduit, and a gate movable in said casing between an open position and a closed position to block a fluid path between the inlet opening and the outlet opening, said gate having a bottom edge;

wherein the valve override system ~~comprising~~ comprises:

an engagement means ~~being adapted for~~ engaging [[[[a]]] the lower edge of said gate of ~~the~~ said gate valve assembly such that said engagement means ~~is for urging the~~ urges said gate of ~~the~~ said gate valve assembly ~~into an~~ from said closed position toward said open position to allow fluid to pass through ~~the~~ said gate valve assembly;

wherein said engagement means comprises a rigid elongate member extending through said casing of said gate valve assembly such that said rigid elongate member engages the bottom edge of said gate of said gate valve assembly.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~valve override system~~ combination as set forth in claim [[[2]]] 1, further comprising:

said rigid elongate member having threads, said threads of said rigid elongate member being adapted for threadably engaging the casing of the gate valve assembly, said rigid elongate member being adapted for being rotated with respect to the casing of the gate valve assembly for changing the length of said rigid elongate member positioned in the gate valve assembly to actuate the gate of the gate valve assembly.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~valve override system~~ combination as set forth in claim [[[2]]] 1, further comprising:

an inhibiting member ~~being adapted for~~ selectively engaging the casing of ~~the~~ said gate valve assembly ~~, said inhibiting member being adapted for inhibiting~~ to inhibit environmental communication between an interior space of ~~the~~ said gate valve assembly and an external environment of said gate valve assembly.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~valve override system~~ combination as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

said inhibiting member being operationally coupled to said rigid elongate member~~, said inhibiting member being adapted for~~ and abutting the casing of ~~the~~ said gate valve assembly to inhibit environmental communication through ~~the~~ said casing adjacent to said rigid elongate member.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~valve override system~~ combination as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

said inhibiting member being threaded, said threads of said inhibiting member threadably engaging said rigid elongate member such that said inhibiting member engages the casing of the gate valve assembly to preload said rigid elongate member and inhibit said rigid elongate member from inadvertently separating from the gate valve assembly.

7. (Original) A method of opening a closed gate valve comprising:

providing a valve override system comprising:

an engagement means being adapted for engaging a gate of the gate valve assembly such that said engagement means is for urging the gate of the gate valve assembly into an open position to allow fluid to pass through the gate valve assembly;

said engagement means comprising a rigid elongate member, said rigid elongate member being adapted for extending through a casing of the gate valve assembly such that said rigid elongate member engages a bottom edge of the gate of the gate valve assembly;

said rigid elongate member having threads, said threads of said rigid elongate member being adapted for threadably engaging the casing of the gate valve assembly, said rigid elongate member being adapted for being rotated with respect to the casing of the gate valve assembly for changing the length of said rigid elongate member positioned in the gate valve assembly to actuate the gate of the gate valve assembly;

an inhibiting member being adapted for selectively engaging the casing of the gate valve assembly, said inhibiting member being adapted for inhibiting environmental communication between an interior space of the gate valve assembly and an external environment;

said inhibiting member being operationally coupled to said rigid elongate member, said inhibiting member being adapted for abutting the casing of the gate valve assembly to inhibit environmental communication through the casing adjacent said rigid elongate member;

said inhibiting member being threaded, said threads of said inhibiting member threadably engaging said rigid elongate member such that said inhibiting member engages the casing of the gate valve assembly to preload said rigid elongate member and inhibit said rigid elongate member from inadvertently separating from the gate valve assembly;

drilling a hole through the casing of the gate valve assembly opposite a valve stem of the gate valve assembly;

tapping the hole of the gate valve assembly to provide the hole with threads;

threading said inhibiting member onto said rigid elongate member;

threading said rigid elongate member into the hole drilled into the casing of the gate valve;

rotating said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate valve assembly to advance said rigid elongate member into the gate valve assembly and urge the gate into the open position; and

tightening of the inhibiting member against the casing of the gate valve assembly to inhibit environmental communication between the interior space of the gate valve assembly and the environment and inhibiting inadvertent rotation of said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate valve assembly.

8. (New) A method of opening a closed gate valve comprising:

providing a valve override system comprising:

a rigid elongate member for engaging a gate of the gate valve assembly, said rigid elongate member having threads; and

an inhibiting member having interior threads for selectively engaging the exterior threads of the rigid elongate member;

forming a hole through a casing of a gate valve assembly at a location opposite of a valve stem of the gate valve assembly;

tapping the hole of the gate valve assembly to provide the hole with threads;

threading said inhibiting member onto said rigid elongate member;

threading said rigid elongate member into the hole drilled into the casing of the gate valve assembly;

rotating said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate valve assembly to advance said rigid elongate member into the gate valve assembly and to contact the gate to thereby urge the gate into an open position; and

tightening of the inhibiting member against the casing of the gate valve assembly to inhibit environmental communication between the interior space of the gate valve assembly and the environment of the gate valve assembly and to inhibit inadvertent rotation of said rigid elongate member with respect to the gate valve assembly.